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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2006
Update 2 – 11 a.m.

City makes temporary repair to NEI break off Pine Grove Drive

A break in the Northeast Interceptor (NEI) pipeline has been temporarily repaired with a permanent repair effort planned for tonight.

The break is about 800 feet to the west of Pine Grove Drive across the road from Pump Station 34. The break is in the swampy, wooded area near Hewlett's Creek. Pine Grove Drive remains closed from Greenville Loop Road to Holly Tree Road so tanker trucks can continue to retrieve sewage in the area.

The city estimates that approximately 520,000 gallons have spilled since a low flow alarm triggered Sunday at about 6 a.m. A small amount is still escaping from the pipe, but the combination of the temporary repair and the pumping operations are containing the majority of the flow.

During repair operations last night, crews discovered that the pipe had previously been damaged and repaired. The original repair, believed to have been done about 20 years ago, was not done or known about by the city.

Because there is no other pipe to divert the waste water to, repairs cannot begin until waste water flowing through the pipe is at its lowest point, usually from about midnight to around 5 a.m. Crews will reassemble tonight at 11 p.m. to make the permanent repair.

The swampy location of the break makes repair efforts more difficult and time consuming. A temporary road into the swamp has been built so heavy equipment can get to the scene, and the repair area itself will be continuously pumped free of water so that workers can get to the pipe to make the repair.

Services to drinking water or waste water have not been affected. However, as a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water.

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For more information, contact city Public Information Officer Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.